
The Voting Panel



David Snell
PwC
Panel Chair

David is a Partner in PwC's London Mid-Tier Assurance practice with 30 years' service with the firm. He specialises in providing audit and transaction support services to small and mid-cap listed businesses across a wide range of industry sectors.

David's clients include both private and publicly owned companies and he has extensive experience of working with Boards, applying his technical and business knowledge with a pragmatic, solutions-based approach. He has been involved in many successful London IPOs as well as working on acquisitions and disposals for listed clients.

David regularly presents and writes on topical issues affecting listed companies and has close contact with key advisors including the London Stock Exchange.



Roland Arnold
BlackRock Investment Management

Roland, Director and Portfolio Manager, is a member of the UK Equity Team within the Fundamental Equity Division of BlackRock's Alpha Strategies Group. He has been Co-manager of the BlackRock UK Special Situations Fund since August 2012, and Manager of small and mid-cap UK Equity Portfolios since 2006. He is also responsible for the analysis of the UK Technology sector.

Roland's service with the firm dates back to 2000, including his years with Merrill Lynch Investment Managers (MLIM), which merged with BlackRock in 2006.



Georgina Brittain
JP Morgan

Georgina, Managing Director, is a Senior Portfolio Manager for small and mid-cap funds within the JP Morgan Asset Management European Equity Group. She is the Fund Manager for the JPM Life UK Small Cap Fund, the JPM UK Smaller Companies Fund and the JP Morgan Smaller Companies Investment Trust, and Co-manager for the JP Morgan Mid Cap Investment Trust.

She is also a Co-manager for JP Morgan's range of European small-cap funds. An employee since 1995, Georgina was previously an Analyst in the UK research department.



Ailsa Craig
SV Life Sciences

Ailsa joined SV Life Sciences in November 2006 as an IBT Investment Analyst and became an Investment Manager in 2008, where she is part of the public markets-focused team.

Previously, Ailsa worked at Baring Asset Management for two years as a Research Analyst, covering pharmaceutical and biotechnology stocks. Prior to this, Ailsa worked for Insight Investment/Rothschild Asset Management (merged in 2003) as the Global Healthcare Analyst.

Ailsa has a BSc (Hons) in Biology from the University of Manchester. She was awarded the IMC in 2002 and the Securities Institute Diploma in 2007.



Andy Crossley
Stockdale Securities

Andy was a small-cap Fund Manager for 24 years until 2010, spending the vast majority of that time at Invesco Perpetual, where he was a two-time winner of Fund Manager of the Year Award at the PLC Awards.

Since then he has been a “gamekeeper turned poacher” firstly, at Peel Hunt, advising corporates, particularly around fundraisings, and also executing ECM transactions and, since April 2015, at Stockdale Securities (previously called Westhouse Securities) as Managing Director. He is a member of the London Stock Exchange's AIM Advisory Group.

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Richard Davies
RD:IR

Richard Davies is Founder and Managing Director of RD:IR, an independent global Investor Relations consultancy, offering a wide range of IR-related analysis, research and advisory services to over 630 UK and international public companies.

As well as providing IR counsel, Richard has run many pioneering research projects across the global financial markets, including surveys covering hedge funds, emerging markets, Private Equity, internet business and financial service marketing processes.

Richard was Chairman of the UK Investor Relations Society from 2009 to 2011 after acting as Deputy Chairman for the previous five years. He was a Board member of the Society for ten years, contributing greatly to the development of the Society's education, events and social programmes. Richard remains active within the Society, sitting on the Events, Conference and Policy Committees, as well as the Society's Examination Board for its Certificate in Investor Relations.



Arun George
Canaccord Genuity

Arun joined Canaccord Genuity in November 2013 as a Technology Analyst, having previously been part of the Institutional team at Edison. He has over nine years' experience covering the software, hardware and semiconductor industries. He was formerly a Technology Analyst for Altium Securities, Espirito Santo Investment Bank, Noble Group and Clear Capital.

He has a dual Masters in Financial Engineering and Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan. He obtained his Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. He is also a CFA charterholder.



Alex Hardwicke
N+1 Singer

Alex has been a UK small and mid-cap Equity Salesman since 1995. Prior to joining N+1 Singer, he was Head of Equity Sales at both Charles Stanley plc and Altium. His 20 years in UK equities has led to strong relationships with fund managers and listed companies alike and he has been rated the No.2 small-cap and the No.5 mid-cap equity salesman in Extel. He has a BSc in Psychology from the University of Exeter and is a keen sportsman, regularly playing hockey, cricket and golf.



Andrew Jones
Zeus Capital

As Director of Corporate Finance at Zeus Capital, Andrew has over 20 years' experience in the public and private company advisory arena, previously working as a Corporate Finance Director for PwC and Head of Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations for Drax Group plc.



Ben Jowett
Winterflood Securities

Ben started his career at Winterflood Securities in 1996 having graduated from Loughborough University. After a two-year secondment to Close Brothers Equity Markets in Paris, specialising in European small cap, Ben returned to London where he is now Head of Sales Trading at Winterflood.

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Marian MacBryde
Makinson Cowell

Marian is a Founder-Director of Makinson Cowell, which is a capital markets advisory practice and the equity side of KPMG's Capital Advisory Group. Marian has over 30 years' experience in the capital markets having worked as a Brokers' Analyst for seven years at Hoare Govett prior to the formation of Makinson Cowell.

She advises companies in the UK, France and Germany on all aspects of their relationships with investors and splits her time between New York, the home of the world's largest capital markets, and Europe.



Jeremy McKeown
Liberum

Jeremy is a member of the UK Mid and Small-cap Equity Sales Team.

Jeremy has 30 years' stock market experience. Prior to joining Liberum, he spent four years at Espirito Santo Investment Bank as the Head of Mid-cap Sales. Before this, he worked for seven years at Investec as Head of Smaller Company Sales. From 1987 to 2000, Jeremy was at Charterhouse Securities where he built up and led the Smaller Companies Team, which became ranked No.1 in the Reuters Survey in 1999. Following the acquisition of Charterhouse by ING, Jeremy led the team to Merrill Lynch where he became Head of Pan-European Mid and Small Cap before leaving in 2001.



Richard Penny
Legal & General
Investment Management

Richard joined Legal & General Investment Management in 2003 and is a Fund Manager within the High Alpha Team and the Manager of the award-winning L&G UK Alpha Trust, as well as a number of segregated portfolios. Most recently, in May 2014, he was appointed Fund Manager for the L&G Special Situations Trusts.

Previously, he worked for five years as a Fund Manager for M&G Investment Management and, prior to this, worked for four years as a Fund Manager at Scottish Amicable Investment Management.



Ian Restall
Flathill Communications Group plc

Ian is the founder of the PLC Awards. Throughout his career, Ian has been involved in the quoted growth companies sector. His early career was as a Stockbroker, Analyst, Broadcaster and Financial Journalist in this area and, since founding The Design Portfolio Marketing Services in 1991 (where he is currently Executive Chairman), he has been active in helping many companies with their investor communication and corporate reporting requirements.

Ian is also Chairman of Flathill Communications Group plc, President of The Design Portfolio Marketing Services Inc. and a member of the Investor Relations Society.



Catherine Stanley
BMO Global Asset Management

Catherine is Head of the Global Small-cap Equity team at BMO Global Asset Management (formerly F&C) and Lead Manager of the UK Responsible Equity funds. Prior to joining in 2000, Catherine spent nine years at Framlington where she managed both retail and institutional UK smaller company funds. She has an MA (Hons) in Geography from the University of Oxford and is a member of the CFA Society in the UK.



David Stevenson
Amati Global Investors

David is a Fund Manager with Amati Global Investors, an Edinburgh-based specialist in UK mid and small companies, running products including an OEIC, AIM Venture Capital Trusts, and an AIM IHT portfolio service. Previously he was a Founding Partner at Cartesian Capital, managing UK long-only and long/short strategies, and prior to that he was Assistant Director at another investment boutique, SVM.

David started his career at KPMG, where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant, latterly specialising in corporate finance, before moving into Private Equity with Dunedin.

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James Thorne
Threadneedle Asset Management

James joined Threadneedle in 2010, as a Portfolio Manager. He is Co-manager of the Threadneedle UK Smaller Companies Fund, the Threadneedle UK Mid 250 Fund and a range of small-cap institutional portfolios. He is also responsible for stock analysis and idea generation for the wider team with research responsibility for chemicals and mid-cap industrials.

James has extensive experience of the smaller companies sector, having worked at Baring Asset Management, Hill Samuel and Abbey Life, as well as Private Equity company 3i.



Martin Turner
Miton Group

Martin Turner has been a Fund Manager at Miton Group since 2011. He jointly manages a range of UK income and small company funds. Previously, Martin was Head of Small/Mid-cap Equities at Collins Stewart.

Prior to this, he was Head of Sales at Landsbanki and Head of Small/Mid-cap Sales at Merrill Lynch. Martin started his career at Arthur Andersen where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant.



Stuart Widdowson
GVQ Investment Management

Stuart is an Executive Director and Fund Manager at GVQ Investment Management, which he joined in 2006. Since 2009, he has managed Strategic Equity Capital plc, an award-winning specialist UK smaller companies investment trust.

He is also Chairman of GVQ's Research Committee. Prior to joining GVQ, he spent five years working at HgCapital, most recently as an Associate Director where he advised on the origination, sourcing and execution of Private Equity investments. Previously Stuart was a Strategy Consultant advising Private Equity firms.



Rhys Williams
finnCap

Rhys is a Director and Head of Sales at finnCap. He has had a 15-year career in the City, initially as a Research Director, and latterly as a general Small/Mid-cap Salesman.



Ben Wright
Berenberg

Ben joined the Corporate Finance and Broking team at Berenberg in November 2015. Previously he was a Director in Corporate Finance at N+1 Singer. Ben has over nine years' experience advising international and domestic companies across a range of transactions, including IPOs, pre-IPOs and secondary fundraisings on the London markets, and with Private and Project Equity financings.

He has also led public company M&A transactions and worked on the disposal of a number of renewable energy assets. Ben qualified as a Barrister from the Inns of Court School of Law.

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Specialist presentations by industry experts

Sustainability



Jennifer McCraight
PwC

Jennifer McCraight is a Manager in PwC's Sustainability and Climate Change team and she works with a wide number of clients to deliver sustainability reporting and assurance advice. She has managed Sustainability Reporting in the FTSE350 and public sector for the past four years and has provided direct reporting feedback to more than 100 companies over this time.



Connie Norton
PwC

Connie Norton is an Associate in PwC's Sustainability and Climate Change team. Connie has conducted in-depth analysis and reviews of the Sustainability Reports of companies in the FTSE100 and FTSE250.

Investor communication



Julie Wilford
Design Portfolio

Julie is Managing Director of Design Portfolio, a specialist in corporate and investor communications.

Julie's background is in corporate reporting and digital communications, helping FTSE350 companies craft and present their investment case. She has been working with the PLC Voting Panel for the last nine years to provide background research, benchmarking and expert reviews on those companies nominated for the Best Investor Communication Award.



Daniel Redman
Design Portfolio

A specialist in strategic consultancy and corporate reporting research. Daniel has worked with a wide variety of FTSE 350 and international blue-chip clients and held events and workshops on a number of topics, including integrated reporting, building a value proposition, articulating the business model and improving corporate governance reporting.

Daniel used his corporate reporting expertise to help benchmark and provide background research on the nominees for the Best Investor Communication Award.

Technology

Arun George
Canaccord Genuity

Arun George (also a member of the Voting Panel) gave a presentation in respect of the Best Technology Award.